
MEETING: EXECUTIVE
AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE: 12 JANUARY 2005
20 JANUARY 2005

SUBJECT: AUDIT COMMISSION ANNUAL AUDIT & INSPECTION
LETTER 2004

REPORT FROM: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CONTACT OFFICER: MARK SANDERS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TYPE OF DECISION: Non Key

REPORT STATUS: FOR PUBLICATION

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

This report presents to Members a draft copy of the Audit and Inspection Annual Letter for 2004. The Letter summarises the conclusions and significant issues arising from the Audit Commission's recent audit and inspection programme.

Members' attention is drawn to the fact that there are no statutory recommendations made by the Audit Commission and to the Commission's conclusion that based on the Council's plans, Bury MBC is well placed to continue to improve the way it works and the services it provides to local people.

OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTION (with reasons):

Members can either :

- (i) Accept or seek amendments to the draft Audit and Inspection Letter.

Recommended option:

It is recommended that Members:

- i) Note to continued improvements to service delivery as acknowledge by the Audit Commission; and

- ii) accept the Annual Letter, approve the action suggested by the Audit Commission and support the inclusion of actions required within the appropriate Service and other Action Plans.

IMPLICATIONS -

Financial Implications and Risk Considerations See DoFEG comment below

Corporate Aims/Policy Framework: The actions set out in the report support all of the Council’s Aims, Objectives, Priorities and Ambitions.

Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes

Are there any legal implications? Yes

Considered by Monitoring Officer: Yes

Comments The proposals set out in the report fall within appropriate statutory powers and duties

Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government: There are no direct resource or risk implications arising from this report.

Staffing/ICT/Property: There are no direct human resource, IT or land and property implications arising from this report.

Wards Affected: All.

Scrutiny Interest: Potentially all Scrutiny Commissions/Panels will have an interest in the findings of the Annual Letter

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR: Mike Owen

Chief Executive/ Management Board	Executive Member/ Chair	Ward Members	Partners
	Yes		
Scrutiny Panel	Executive	Committee	Council
	Yes	Audit	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Attached to this report is the Audit Commission's joint audit and inspection 'Annual Letter' for Members. This replaces the Annual Audit Letter and it summarises the conclusions and significant issues arising from the Commission's audit and inspection programme during 2004 and it also comments on other current issues.
- 1.2 Members' attention is particularly drawn to the key messages contained in the Letter and shown on page 1,

"Bury Metropolitan Borough Council has improved to become a GOOD council. It has made significant improvements to housing, adult social services, libraries and leisure and environmental services over the last year".

"The improvement plan both demonstrates Bury's increased corporate ability and effectiveness with aims to further develop it".

Note the action needed shown on page 2, to the CPA and scorecard on page 3:

On achievement:

"Overall, the council's service performance has continued to improve during the year and now compares favourably with some excellent councils".

- 1.3 Overall, it is pleasing to note the fact that the Commission has given an unqualified opinion of the Authority's Accounts for 2003/04. It is also important to note that Commission has not felt it necessary to issue any statutory recommendations.
- 1.4 Audit Fee - as a result of Bury being categorised as 'good' under the comprehensive performance assessment, the Audit fee for 2005-2006 will be reduced by £40,000.
- 1.5 The Letter is in draft form and Members will be able to make comments to the Commission at the meetings.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BYRNE
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

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7th January 2005